Live from Thurston County!

Works in Progress

SNEAK PREVIEW ISSUE!

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Looking for a Fairer System of Elections–

The Case for PR

by Robert Richie

"Proportional representation is a method of apportioning members of a legislative body in a way that reflects accurately the preferences of the voters."

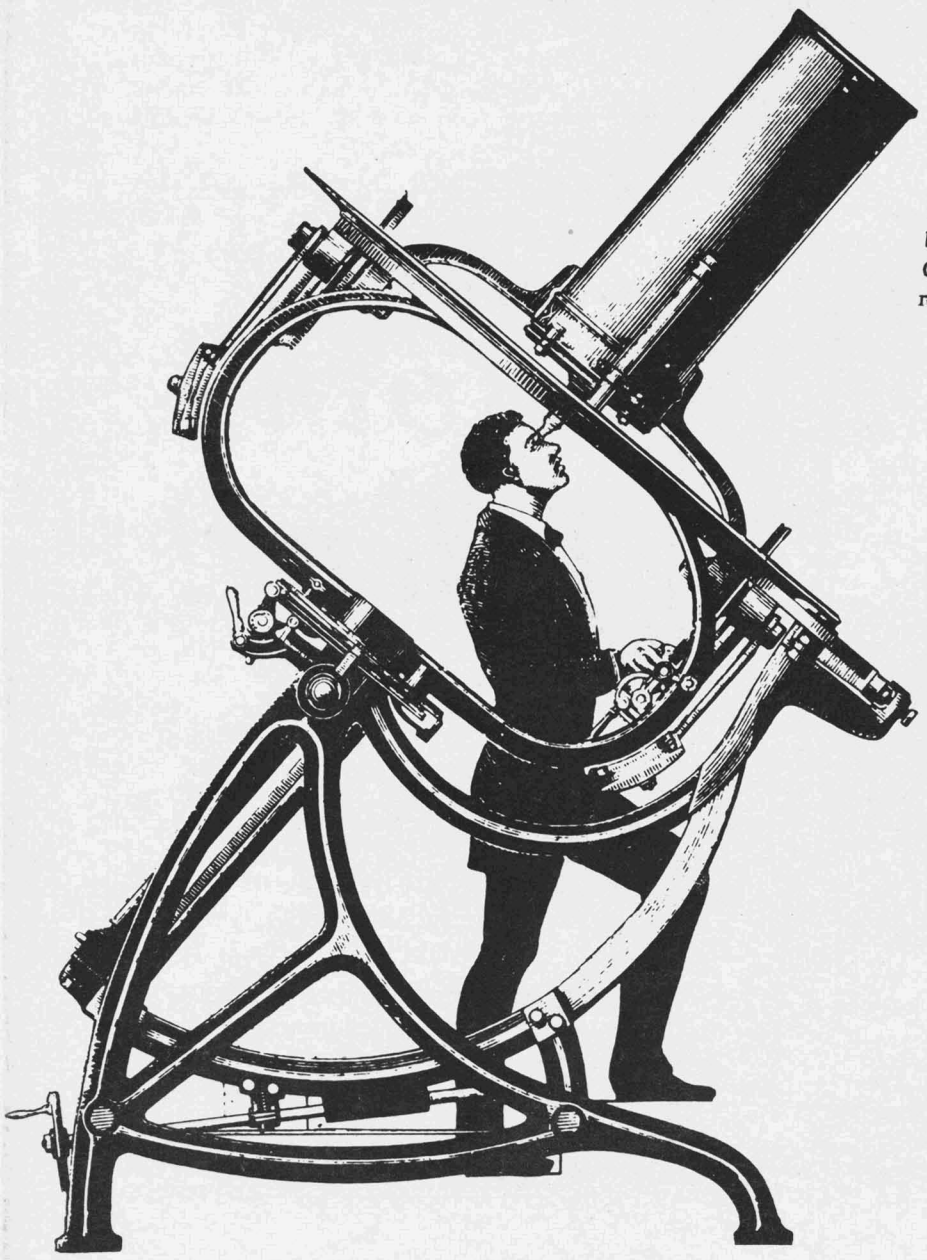
(Encyc. Americana, 1985)

"Proportional representation contrasts with the . . . 'winner-take-all' method of electing legislators. . . [in which] voters for the losing parties are in effect unrepresented in the legislature."

(Academic America Encyc., 1981)

"Proportional representation: electoral device based on the principle that the distribution of seats in a representative assembly should reflect as exactly as possible the distribution of the electors' votes among the competing parties or contending candidates. . . . The case for proportional representation is fundamentally the same as that for representative democracy: only if an assembly represents the full diversity of opinion within a nation can its decisions be regarded as the decisions of the nation itself."

(Encyc. Britannica, 1982)



Imagine it is the year 2000. Spurred by an increasing frustration at the government's inability to confront our nation's problems, a startling reform movement has resulted in the use of proportional representation systems to elect several state legislatures, many county councils and half of the U.S. Congress. The Daily Olympian runs the following editorial on the results of the recent national elections:

By Biff Hooper
The Olympian

Tuesday's victory by Cynthia Nicholson in the presidential race caps a remarkable political rise that we believe marks an auspicious beginning to this new millennium. Capitalizing on a massive voter registration effort and broad support from women, environmentalists and the labor community, Ms. Nicholson and the New Democrats gained an impressive victory. Working in coalition with Sen. Jesse Jackson's Rainbows (whose 1998 congressional gains without doubt opened the door for the New Democrats' success), the New Dems have a good opportunity to tackle their ambitious, detailed agenda of "economic justice with ecological sense."

But Nicholson cannot ignore the opposition. Although Sam Nunn ran a disappointing third behind Nicholson and President Quayle, the Democrats still hold respectable blocks in both Houses,

• Nixon retires from politics/1C

as do Quayle's Republicans. Meanwhile, Sen. Pat Robertson's America First Party, although losing support to the Republicans despite Quayle's defeat, continues to voice what many Americans want to hear.

Nicholson's 'pro-environment, pro-people' message carried over to Thurston County local elections. Sensible Growth gained a majority of the county council by picking up two seats in the county council; it broadened its appeal by including candidates from rural areas formerly suspicious of the urban-based Sensible Growth. In light of the pro-environment tide, development interests are breathing easy that proportional representation ensured continued voicing of their interests on the council. Interest in community board elections remained strong, with the new boards demonstrating the typical broad range of views that has impressed so many this past decade.

Is this vision merely a pipedream? Could proportional representation be a concept powerful enough to sweep so quickly into Americans' consciousness and electoral system and a reform significant enough to expand voter participation and the range of political debate as envisioned? I will make no bold predictions about proportional representation's prospects in the U.S., but it is indisputable that its advantages have been readily apparent to nearly every nation implementing democracy in the last two decades. Furthermore, proportional representation indeed has led to increases in political involvement and meaningful debate. These changes in the U.S. certainly would facilitate attempts to solve the several complex, potentially divisive problems now confronting us.

To understand proportional representation and address the benefits of instituting it in the U.S., some basic questions should be answered.

JUST WHAT IS PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION?:

Proportional representation (hereafter called "PR") describes a range of electoral alternatives to the single member, winner-take-all district method used in the United States. In PR systems, those elected represent the people who vote for them rather than simply the people living in a given geographical district. Thomas Hare — a 19th century thinker whose "single transferable vote" (STV) system drew the immediate enthusiastic endorsement of John Stuart Mill and is well-adapted for use in Thurston County —

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PR FOR THURSTON COUNTY?

by Robert Richie
and Teresa Jennings

The freeholders' attempt to write a new charter for Thurston County provides a unique opportunity to raise awareness about elections and representation. In establishing a new electoral system, the freeholders will need to ask what is the best system for achieving such readily understandable goals as:

* representing and involving citizens;
* addressing complex, controversial issues;
* coming towards consensus on how to resolve such issues.

The accompanying article should make it clear that by any objective measure, PR is the best electoral system for meeting these goals. But for the freeholders to put PR into the charter or at least propose it as a separate ballot question (which was done in New York City in 1936 when voters approved both a new charter and PR), we will need to challenge the current bias toward single member, winner-take-all districts with a vigorous education effort. If this challenge is carried out thoughtfully and persistently, it is quite possible that the freeholders at least will accept a semi-proportional electoral system, which would begin a move across the spectrum of electoral choices that later could result in more substantive reform.

The basic argument for PR in the county: The first point to emphasize is that PR makes sense and fits well with American democratic traditions. For example, the 1988 Thurston County Democratic Party platform has a plank on electoral reform which begins: "The Democratic Party recognizes the right and need for all citizens to participate freely in the democratic process of electing leaders and discussing issues at the grass roots level. The party strives to make the process of participation as easy and unobstructed as possible." Few people in this country would chal-

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Cultural Delegation from Santo Tomas Nicaragua Promote International Friendship

by Dave Groves

A major people-to-people cultural exchange will take place this Fall (with your help). The Thurston Santo Tomas Sister County Association is planning to sponsor six Tomasinos' (Santo Tomas residents in a visit to Thurston County. The visitors include Aurora Baez, who was the catalyst for the Santo Tomas chapter of the Nicaraguan Women's Association and has received a salary of about $20 a month for the past 5 years. Other visitors include a high school student; a teacher of history, economics, soccer and baseball; a nurse in charge of vaccination programs; a peasant farmer who has organized for the union, UNAG; and a Catholic priest.

Santo Tomas was chosen as a sister county or region with Thurston County because of the work of the Olympia Construction Brigade which helped construct a new sewing cooperative in Santo Tomas. The many friends developed there served as a foundation for the association's work which included a material aid drive in 1989 and finding baseball equipment to outfit six kids' baseball teams there. Jean Eberhardt and Judy Seirano met with the Santo Tomas association when they visited in January and February of this year and the delegation is eager to talk with all segments of Thurston County population.

The visit by the delegation will cost about $10,000 and financial help is needed now to make this a success. Also needed are *your* contacts with various groups to plan talks and visits for the delegation. You can help June 2nd by working Super Saturday at the food booth with the Olympia Food-Coop or call the following persons to volunteer to help: Maureen Hill 786-9505 (fundraising), Keturah Brown 943-4453 (churches, clubs), Richard Smith 754-8829 (colleges), Jeff Snyder 786-9213 (schools), Dave Groves 943-6235 (Super Saturday).

There are many reasons to build on our relations with Nicaragua: to understand food policy in underdeveloped nations, to build on international education find environmental solutions, friendship, and to promote self-determination. To this end we developed this Statement of Purpose:

Whereas World Peace depends upon the friendships of people towards one another, and becomes stronger as people grow in understanding of one another, and for the mutual benefit of one another, and for the mutual benefit of Santo Tomas and Thurston County we intend:

- *to foster sustained relationships between the people of Santo Tomas and Thurston County through the development of personal friendships and community ties.*
- *to develop widespread community involvement and awareness of related issues through sponsorship of cultural and educational activities.*
- *to promote multifaceted exchanges in as many areas as possible to facilitate greater understanding between our people.*
- *to promote peace and a just relationship through activities that support self-determination and self-sufficiency for the Nicaraguan people.*
- *to improve the material well-being of our Sister-County by offering needed support.*

Furthermore, the Sister-County relationship with Santo Tomas, Nicaragua is to be one of friendship between people and is not meant to be construed as an endorsement or condemnation of the Nicaraguan government.

Welcome to *Works in Progress*

Next month the **Thurston County Rainbow Coalition** plans to debut a new monthly publication. In order to get in shape for it, we've produced *Works in Progress*, Volume 1, Number 0, which is a warm-up for what will follow. A heck of a lot of subject matter has been left out of this issue, not because we didn't want to cover it, but because we hadn't received many submissions yet, and haven't had a chance to fully solicit the Thurston progressive community for material. For instance, environmental concerns, spiritual concerns, gay/lesbian rights, racism, sexism and other topics that we would like to see addressed in our forthcoming publication aren't addressed at all in this issue. It should not be inferred that these issues aren't of utmost importance to the **Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.**

As of April 30th T.C.R.C. still hadn't agreed on a name for the new publication. Keep your eyes peeled though, it shouldn't be hard to spot (we might even keep the name *Works in Progress*). Of course, to be sure to find future issues, you can subscribe using the coupon on page 4. Similarly, to ensure a quality reading experience reaches the masses, you are encouraged to send your own thoughts, opinions, observations, meticulous research, or whatever. Send it to **The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition**, P.O. Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295. Also, if you want to see an event appear on our calender, call Teresa at 456-0451. Special thanks to Glen Anderson, for contributing the calender items that appear in this issue.

The opinions that appear on these pages do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the **Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.**

Motherhood by Choice Voices In Mother's Day Olympian Ad

Reproduction Rights Coalition Sponsors Pro-Choice Olympian Ad

by Joel Davis

Roe v. Wade was not actually overturned in last year's Webster decision by the U.S. Supreme Court, but attempts are being made in many states to restrict access to contraception and abortion services. Locally, anti-choice pickets continue to harass staff and clients of the Thurston Women's Health Clinic. An anti-choice ad recently appeared in The Olympian.

"In our state, two bills were introduced during the last legislative session which would have greatly added to reproductive freedom in Washington State, " noted Linda Malanchuk, a member of Thurston County's Reproductive Rights Coalition. "However, they were both killed in the State Senate."

The "Clinic Access Protection" bill would have increased civil and criminal penalties for people blocking access to clinics providing reproductive services. The "Pregnancy Prevention and Support" bill would have improved resource information and services for teens in their own communities.

According to RRC member Mary Clogston, the majority of citizens support a woman's right to reproductive choice, and the RRC feels it is important that pro-choice supporters make their voices heard. "That's why the Coalition is spearheading an Endorsement/ Mother's Day Ad Campaign," said Clogston.

The organization is planning to run a full-page ad in the Sunday Olympian on Mother's Day, May 13. The ad will highlight a statement of principle for Choice, and a pledge to support reproductive rights and the need for free reproductive choice. The ad will thus emphasize the strength of the pro-choice position in this community.

The ad's "Statement of Principle and Pledge" will read: "We trust women of Washington; therefore, we support equal access to all health options for all women making reproductive choices. Further, we pledge to oppose any attempt to interfere with or undermine this fundamental women's right. Motherhood should be by choice." The ad will also include the names of all the people who have signed petitions supporting the Statement.

Well over two hundred people have signed pledge forms so far, and signatures are still being gathered. The Coalition will have information tables and pledge sheets at the upcoming Washington State NOW convention here in Olympia, at the Olympia Co-op, The Evergreen State College, and at the Olympia Farmer's Market. They plan to continue collecting signatures through May 8.

The RRC also needs donations to help cover the cost of the ad, which will run to over $1,200.00. Signatures and donations [a mail back form is reproduced elsewhere in this issue] can be sent to the Coalition at P.O. Box 1921, Olympia, 98507. Those seeking additional information can contact Clogston at 352-5182 or Malanchuk at 357-7272.

Clip and Send In

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE AND PLEDGE

We trust the women of Washington; therefore, we support equal access to all health options for all women making reproductive choices.

Further, we pledge to oppose any attempt to interfere with or undermine this fundamental women's right.

NAME (SIGNATURE, PLEASE) PRINTED NAME

I'd like to open the Olympian on May 13th and see a whole page devoted to every women's right to make her own reproductive choices. I've enclosed a check for:

$15.00 __ $10.00 __ $5.00 __ $____.__ __

to help pay for the Endorsement/Mother's Day Ad Campaign.

[Please make check out to Reproductive Rights Coalition, and return check and this form to:
RRC, PO Box 1921, Olympia, WA 98507]

SPONSORED BY THE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS COALITION

Former Congressman Don Bonker
Invites You To

Join Jolene!

For the 1990
Campaign Headquarters Opening
Friday, March, 4th
5-6:30 P.M.

406 Capitol Way South
Olympia, WA 98501

For more information, call 357-7007
Contributions gratefully accepted

PAID FOR BY THE JOLENE UNSOELD 1990 CAMPAIGN
P.O. BOX 10231, OLYMPIA, WA 98502 (206) 357-7007

Local Distribution of U.S. Military Budget Cuts:

Thurston Community Coalition to Create An Annual Thurston Community Plan/Budget

by Maureen Sheimo

Thurston County has many informed and concerned citizens who are thinking globally and acting locally individually and through many different issue organizations. They are responding to the challenges of our times:

- to achieve peace through disarmament, support for democratic self determination, and respect and support for international law;

- to achieve justice in the protection of human rights and creation of economic and political policies to provide a just distribution of wealth that will ensure access to basic human needs for all people; and

- to achieve protection and repair of our fragile global environment to sustain essential resources and the full diversity of living species.

The startling achievements of citizen's movements in Eastern Europe and elsewhere in recent years have greatly impacted our visions of what is possible in the 1990's. As we watch the excitement in their efforts to establish democratic structures and new economies, we are also experiencing increased excitement about redirecting our potential "peace dividend" to meet critical human and environmental needs in the U.S. and throughout the world.

High level military planners are now stating that there is no longer a "defense" rationale for maintaining our exorbitant spending levels. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney has proposed a cut of about $180 billion from the projected military budget over the next three years. Similarily, Robert McNamara (former defense secretary under Kennedy and Johnson) and Lawrence Korb (assistant defense secretary under Reagan) recently recommended a 50% decrease to Congress.

Congress will decide how much is cut and how the savings are reallocated? Will the interests of the American people prevail over the interests of the military industrial complex?

We cannot use these cuts merely to reduce the federal deficit that resulted from Reagan's program of massive weapons build-up funded without equally massive tax increases. Now, to avoid massive unemployment, much of the military cuts will have to be used to support the conversion of military to non-military production and services.

Instead of producing B-1 bombers, MX and Trident missiles, we can produce state of the art rapid transit systems, rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, and design environmentally sound production and waste management systems, and agricultural production that is not dependent on poisonous pesticides and herbicides and is conservative of soil and water resources. We can break the cycle of families trapped in poverty by adequately funding quality education, health and social services, and job training programs.

As we watch the people of Eastern Europe in their "mass" efforts to involve themselves in redefining and redesigning their political and economic structures, perhaps we also will be motivated to re-examine our political and economic structures. There is a high level of popular cynicism about the effectiveness and integrity of our government. Citizens are aware that they have often been lied to by their highest elected officials and they are frustrated with an electoral process more dependent on dollars and media images than on leadership to address major social problems. Can we find a process to increase the effective democratic involvement of citizens in making choices for investment in our future?

We recognize the many organizations and individuals in this community who are currently working very hard to effect policy and /or budget changes to address critical community needs. We know that each of these organizations and individuals have important information about the needs or concerns they are addressing and the costs to the community (both the costs of not addressing the need and the cost of proposed solutions). This information should be collected, analyzed, discussed, and developed into a Thurston Community Plan/Budget that will:

- articulate our vision for the future

- identify unmet needs and the approximate costs an savings of meeting them

- generate creative solutions, and identify appropriate legislation, and funding sources

- provide a directory of the organizations working in each issue area.

The process of developing a Thurston Community Plan/Budget would help to build the community network both within and across issue areas. It would expand our own understanding of what is needed and what is possible and be useful for education, planning, and lobbying.

The Plan/Budget will have a local focus in the sense that it will reflect the goals of the people of Thurston County. But, it will include proposals for policy that impact Thurston County, whether those policies are generated by local, state, or federal government and it will encourage local citizen participation and action on issues from the local to the global level.

If we set a goal to complete our first annual Thurston Community Plan/Budget by the end of 1990, it is probably fair to say that none of us will be completely satisfied with the contents of our first effort. It is probably fair to say that none of us will ever be completely satisfied with contents of the Community Plan/Budget. It will always be changing with new ideas responding to new needs in new circumstances. But the process of creating an annual Plan/Budget will force us to achieve some level of community consensus on community goals. Through the process our perceptions of community values will be tested and most likely changed and we will develop our understanding of the options available for using natural, human, and capital resources in ways that are consistent with our values and our goals.

Obviously, in making this proposal the three sponsoring groups, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Thurston Sane/Freeze, have an expectation that the Plan/Budget will assess the question of whether the current levels of military spending are consistent with our community goals. However, we do not see the Plan/Budget merely or even primarily as a military conversion effort. The Thurston Community Coalition should be open to all organizations and individuals interested in participating. It should be dedicated to a principle of inclusiveness and freedom of speech. It will need to operate within a simple structure that respects the autonomy of the participating groups with no single organization or issue area allowed to dominate the process or the contents of the Plan/Budget.

1989 FEDERAL MILITARY BUDGET

Total Military Spending	**$298,800,000,000**	
58% -	**$175,000,000,000**	**Support of U.S. Forces in Europe**
22% -	**$68,000,000,000**	**Nuclear Programs**

Thurston County Tax Payers Share of this Bill:

	$ 97,650,000	**U.S. Forces in Europe**
	$ 38,348,000	**Nuclear Programs**
Total	**$ 135,998,000**	

This amount exceeds the total of the operating budgets of the eight school districts in Thurston County in 1989, $132,923,917.

Media Invests Bias in Reporting the Peace Dividend

by Robert Krinsky

Major mass media have responded to the end of the Cold War with sustained treatment of the "peace dividend" — the term applied to the resources released from military accounts for alternative civilian uses. However, the dominant perspective of this coverage has been that the peace dividend will be small, and that the sum available should be applied exclusively to reducing the federal budget deficit. Even news articles disparage the view that peace dividend funds should be invested in health care, infrastructure, environmental repair, drug treatment, affordable housing, and other nation concerns that have been long deferred in the name of the Cold War.

Newsweek, (12/25/89) in a story headlined, "The Myth of the Peace Dividend," pronounced that the "whole idea of a collosal Peace Dividend is a fallacy." Time (2/20/90) in a cover story segment entitled, "The Peace Dividend: Myth and Reality," claimed that the sum will be "relatively puny..."

The media conveys its perspective on the peace dividend through selection of sources and techniques of framing the issue. Those who would invest the peace dividend in housing, environmental repair, health care, education, drug treatment and a host of other national needs are marginalized by omission, by infrequency, and by unfavorable characterization. For example, the media carried no coverage of a January 25th press conference at the annual mid-winter meeting of the U.S Conference of Mayors, in which New York Mayor David Dinkins and colleagues endorsed a peace dividend for our nation's communities (see The New Economy, Issue 4).

The press has also ignored the vantage point of peace movement organizations. Between November 1989 and January 1990, not a mention of these groups could be found in more than 35 articles on the peace dividend appearing in the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Los Angeles Times, St.Louis Dispatch, Dallas Morning News, USA Today, Time, Newsweek, and segments on ABC News Nightline, NBC News Today, and PBS' McNeil/Lehrer News Hour. The only press mention of the peace organizations in recent months has pointed to their troubles rather than their views: the New York Times published an account entitled "Those For Whom 'Peace Dividend' Means Deficit," discussing how the end of the Cold War wrought financial troubles for the peace movement (NYt, 2/12/90). No mention has been made of the SANE/Freeze peace economy campaign, but the Times did let readers know that "morale at SANE/Freeze, the largest peace group in the country, plummeted when debt forced the group to lay off a quarter of its national staff and cut salaries."

In articles and news analysis much favorable media was given to the view that any peace dividend should be used to reduce the federal budget deficit. This position seemed to an axiom of peace dividend coverage. John J. Fialka, a staff reporter with The Wall Street Journal, presented the headline verdict, "'Peace Dividend' From Winding Down Cold War Would Disappear Into Sinkhole of U.S. deficit" (12/4/89). Time (2/12/90) asserted that "The best possible use for any peace dividend is reduction of the federal deficit." The alarm was sounded that "special interest groups" are "...already lined up to grab whatever savings result from defense cuts."

News articles in the media blamed the public for a low savings rate, and instructed that the peace dividend be used to make amend for this fiscal indiscretion. The "...already famous peace dividend... won't eliminate the deficit... but it could be a good-sized down payment...[P]rofligacy is fun. But it means that the U.S. isn't investing enough to assure a better life for our children and grandchildren..." (WSJ, 11/27/89) In the same vein, Time (2/12/90) ridiculed the prospect of investing the peace dividend in anything but the deficit reduction. "The worst outcome would be for the U.S. to beat its swords into more credit cards."

Most of the peace dividend accounts in the mass media do not consider that the danger of debt depends in large part on how the borrowed money is being invested. In the 1980's, the borrowed funds were principally spent on economically non-productive uses. Military spending characteristically has no economic use value. Had the borrowed funds been invested in education, infrastructure, modernization of civilian production facilities, and the like, the country would perhaps be in a better position to pay off its debt.

Recently the New York Times editorial board took the position that there ought to be a "public debate" on the allocation of the peace dividend. However, they held that the size of the peace dividend should be no larger than $150 billion after ten years elapse (NYT, 3/8/90 and 3/9/90). If the Cold War is now over, why shouldn't the entire military budget be subject to public debate? After all, for more than four decades the military budget has been legitimized to citizens on the basis of the Cold War.

Robert Krinsky is Program Director at the National Commission for Economic Conversion & Disarmament. This article excerpted from a study by Krinsky published in EXTRA!, March-April 1990, a publication of FAIR (Fairness & Accuracy in Reporting), 130 West 25th Street, New York, NY10001, (212) 633-6700 Membership: U.S. $30, Internationally $40.

The Case for PR cont.

Continued from page 1

— described PR as "personal representation." Elected in multi-member districts, candidates have their constituencies defined by voters rather than judges or gerrymandering legislators. In PR systems votes almost always help a party or candidate gain office. Thus, over 99.5 percent of East Germans in their March election voted for one of the 13 parties that gained

"...most PR systems are far easier to understand than baseball, let alone bridge..."

representation in proportion to their vote totals. In contrast, less than half the voters in recent winner-take-all elections in Canada and Great Britain had the satisfaction of seeing their candidate elected to office.

WHAT DOES PR HAVE GOING FOR IT?

A number of benefits come from using PR to elect representatives.

* Voter turn-out increases: voters know their votes count toward representation.

* Voters' range of choice widens: candidates' differences are more clearly defined and alternative parties thrive.

* More citizens participate in and follow the political process after elections: more people are represented by someone for whom they voted and more people vote.

* Representatives of minority viewpoints and minorities have greater opportunities to obtain voices in their government: gaining representation requires only a strong core of support, not an absolute majority.

* The range of political debate broadens: candidates more easily can risk voicing minority concerns and courageous but temporarily unpopular positions.

* Mandates of the electorate on specific issues are clearer: the range of debate and choice is broader and candidates take clearer stands on issues.

* Major parties have stronger, more consistent voices: representatives of rigid special interests can vote for alternative parties.

* Complex, contentious issues are addressed through a more inclusive, developing political process: alternative parties voice concerns that major parties adopt if the alternative party's following increases.

* The electoral process costs less: primaries can be eliminated and re-drawing districts is done more easily and less often.

SO HOW DOES PR WORK?

PR exists in a variety of forms. In East Germany, for instance, voters simply mark which party they prefer: any party that gains over 0.1% of the vote selects at least one candidate to be in the 400-member parliament. In West Germany, voters elect candidates from single member districts, then cast a second vote that results in parties gaining seats in the parliament in relation to their percentage of the overall vote. Ireland, which since 1922 has used the candidate-based STV system, moves farther from a reliance on parties by allowing voters simply to list candidates from any party in order of preference to represent their multi-member districts. Switzerland's combination of the West German and Irish systems allows voters both to make preferences for parties and individual candidates.

WHY WOULD PR RESULT IN CANDIDATES TALKING ABOUT ISSUES?

With PR, candidates with a base of support can take strong stands on controversial issues and still gain office despite negative campaigns against their views (one important advantage of PR would be that negative campaigns would be less effective because of the increased numbers of candidates). Once in office and steadily presenting their analyses, these representatives will gain a growing following if their positions are responsible and the major parties fail to follow their lead. This theoretical point is supported by political developments in West Germany in the 1980s, when the emergence of the Green Party resulted in all of the West German political parties becoming much more responsive to ecological concerns. In the U.S., if a small party — one headed by Jesse Jackson, say — made a strong, ongoing case for the need to raise taxes on the wealthy and corporations in order to rebuild our infrastructure and restore cuts in education and housing, the Democrats almost certainly would have to incorporate the position or risk losing too much of the vote to the

"One advantage of PR would be that negative campaigns would be less effective because of the increased number of candidates."

third party. And they could do so without having to make the politically-dangerous initial arguments that inhibit them now from taking a step that begs to be taken.

BE HONEST, WHAT DISADVANTAGES DOES PR HAVE?

Four main criticisms of PR are:

1. Minority populations and extremists are over-represented.
2. It's too complicated for people to understand.
3. It deprives localities of representation.
4. It results in fragmented government.

All these criticisms can be answered; the fear of divided government is the only critique with some merit. As to the first point, the criticism essentially is the undemocratic notion that any representation of certain groups is too much — thus, the focus on the communists gaining representation in New York City despite their having been duly elected. On the second point, any new system can seem complicated, but most PR systems are far easier to understand than baseball, let alone bridge. On the third point, in candidate-based systems like STV, voters usually vote for candidates they know something about, which often means candidates from close to where they live; STV elections in U.S. cities universally resulted in widespread geographic representation. In addition, having more options allows voters more of an opportunity to demonstrate their real preference. And having more representatives can result in actually better constituent service, as citizens can go to a representative whom they support and there is competition between members for best serving constituents.

The issue of divided rule is connected to the question of the meaning of representation. Some believe that representatives are trustees for the people, others believe that they are the people's agents. Representatives always will need to be in the position of making decisions their constituents might not at first understand — which is why we have representatives in the first place — but should be accountable for those decisions because ultimately they indeed are the people's agents if one believes in democracy. Representing a wider range of the population's viewpoints will require more complex solutions to problems. But including more citizens' views in the debate will allow more people to accept the majority's decision. It is exclusion from the political process that is ultimately more divisive than the more overt disunity of multiple parties.

WHY HAVEN'T I HEARD MORE ABOUT PR?

The best explanation for the lack of public awareness of PR in the U.S. is that we too easily can trap ourselves in status quo thinking. It is simply remarkable how press reports on the democratic tumult in eastern Europe have skipped so quickly over PR and its differences from our electoral model. To increase awareness and debate about PR will require challenging current investors in the status quo who are fearful that any change will hurt their interests. One can get a hint of whose interests are best served by our current model from the following comment in an editorial on voter registration in the Feb. 15 Wall St. Journal: *"The belief that a low voter turnout is automatically cause for concern also ignores what makes America unique. This was a country founded by people who wanted to avoid creating a society obsessed with politics. . . . A low voter turnout can be viewed as a lack of interest in government, but it also can be seen as a sign voters know that politics doesn't hold answers to many of their problems."* Contrast this observation with a recent New York Times piece on political apathy in the Soviet Union: *"Perhaps the greatest opponent [leaders of popular opposition groups] face in the elections Sunday for local and republican-wide Government seats is apathy among the electorate. They say people have stopped believing that their vote will make a difference in their lives."* Thus, status quo forces in both the US and the USSR are happy with apathetic, politically disengaged populations.

I'M WON OVER. WHAT CAN I DO?

Educating others about PR is our most important task right now. We need to write letters to newspaper editors, party chairs, representatives, national public interest groups and local civic organizations. We need to talk to friends, read more about PR, and make sure it really makes sense. We can form "CPR" (Citizens for Proportional Representation!) discussion groups, hold workshops. Perhaps the most exciting task at first would be to encourage local groups to which one belongs to adopt PR models for electing their officers.

But to be effective in reforming society, education needs to be combined with political action. Initiatives will need to be written and put on the ballot, legislators will need to be lobbied. Thurston County residents can begin political work right now by urging the freeholders to reject putting a winner-take-all electoral system into the new charter; the freeholders at least could create a separate ballot question on what electoral system Thurston county should have. Challenging the status quo is never easy. But never has our political system so obviously needed such a challenge.

If you're interested in working on the issue of PR in Thurston County, contact Rob Ritchie at 459-5590 or Teresa Jennings at 456-0451

Join!

The Thurston County Rainbow Coalition

☐ Yes, I'm interested in joining the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition.
Enclosed is ☐ $5 ☐ $10 ☐ $25 ☐ $50 ☐ $ _____ toward my membership.

☐ Yes, I want to join the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, but I can't afford to send any money. Make me a member anyway.

☐ No, I'm not interested in joining at this time, but please put me on your mailing list.

☐ Enclosed is $20. Please subscribe me for one year to this newspaper.
(Note: Subscription is not included with membership.)

_____ *(name)*

_____ *(address)*

_____ *(city)* _____ *(zip code)*

_____ *(home phone)* _____ *(work phone)*

_____ *(Sectoral/Issue -Interests (e.g. labor, affirmative action, etc.)*

Send to: Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, P.O. Box 295 Olympia WA 98507. For information call 352-1877

Proportional Representation in Thurston County?

Continued from page 1

–lenge this goal, but few are aware that PR would be the best reform to realize this goal.

The second point is that PR could fit in with any option for government that the freeholders consider. Elections will take place no matter what happens, and alternatives exist even for single member districts that would result in increased political dialogue and better representation. Current proposals by several freeholders for a consolidated county government are particularly well-suited for PR. Almost every freeholder acknowledges that consolidation would have a range of benefits, with the only drawback being that the resulting governing body would be too centralized and removed from the people. But PR elections would result in better representation of different interests and create the environment for public debate and public input that would check the feared effects of centralization and distance.

The third point is that instituting PR would provide a system that would allow Thurston County to better deal with the problems of tomorrow as well as today. For example, unchecked growth is a deservedly important concern, but to put anti-growth measures in the charter itself weakens the new charter's chances of passage and does not ensure that a democratic process has been institutionalized which will allow people to control tomorrow's environmental problems. By increasing the opportunity for representation of diverse viewpoints, PR results in a democratic process that allows both majority rule and minority voices. With consistent representation of both pro-growth and anti-growth forces, for example, it is more likely that a consensus would be achieved on growth that more people would trust and accept.

The fourth point is that PR is in almost every group's self-interest. A new charter means that the status quo will change and that those invested in the status quo already will have to accept changes. Instituting PR ensures that groups will have a voice even if their viewpoint is supported by only a minority; thus, both sides on the growth issue can be sure of representation no matter how the political winds below. It should be stressed that this argument is not for undercutting democracy; it is for undercutting majority domination.

Finally, the fifth point is that there are precedents for PR in this country and that it would be quite practical to institute in the county. Model PR provisions for the charter can be found in the local library; more current advice easily could be obtained.

Concrete models: Because of their closeness to constituents, local governments have to be more sensitive to their community's needs and desires than state or national governments. The freeholders have acknowledged this point, and some are proposing community councils that would be perfectly suited to PR elections. PR also could be used for any countywide elected body. The following are some of the electoral reforms the freeholders could consider.

1. The simplest electoral reform would be the alternative vote. The alternative vote, used to elect national representatives in Australia, simulates a run-off between the top two vote-getters by:

First, voters listing the candidates in order of preference (or list no second choices if they do not want any of the other candidates); second, the second choices of the last-place candidate going to the other candidates if no candidate gets an absolute majority; and third, the process continuing until one candidate has an absolute majority. The alternative vote stimulates third party activity and the accompanying political excitement, but can be even more majoritarian than the current system (as sometimes a split vote can benefit a candidate supported by a minority).

2. The limited vote, used in some 19th century parliamentary elections in Great Britain and approximately 200 local elections in the U.S., is a variation of at-large elections. If five seats are available on a county council, for example, voters might have the opportunity to vote for three candidates rather than five. The limited vote thus helps prevent small majorities from winning all available seats with block voting, but does not ensure that minority viewpoints or populations will be represented -- particularly if candidates representing those minorities split one another's vote. Nevertheless, the limited vote would be preferable to the simple at-large voting currently being discussed by the freeholders.

3. Approval voting is a recent idea that has yet to be used, but seems well-suited for party primaries. Instead of voting for a single candidate, voters simply mark the candidates of which they approve. Thus, in the 1988 presidential race for the Democratic party, a voter might vote for ("approve of") Jesse Jackson, Paul Simon and Bruce Babbitt. The race's winner would be the candidate with the highest approval rating. While far from perfect, approval voting at least would result in the nomination of candidates best reflecting the electorate's consensus.

4. Party list systems, like those used in most of Europe, can result in well-proportioned representation of parties, but are likely to be viewed with some suspicion by U.S. citizens unused to reliance on strong party identification. Party list systems in West Germany and Switzerland are described in the accompanying article in answer to the question "So how does PR work?" These systems certainly should be considered — particularly because of their ability to result in minority representation and the growth of alternative parties -- but may be better suited for statewide or national elections.

5. The Single Transferable Vote (STV), used in Ireland for nearly 70 years and several American cities at one time, is the system that we would recommend for Thurston County, although it can be combined with elements of other systems. Some of STV's biggest advantages come from the fact that it is candidate-based; thus, primaries are unnecessary, and candidates, once in office, are not tied to parties and can more easily form coalitions to govern effectively. In STV, voting simply involves listing candidates in order of preference, but the vote count process itself is complicated. Basically, candidates are elected in multi-member districts when they obtain a certain quota of votes based on the number of voters and the number of seats to be filled. Candidates are elected who reach the quota after first choices are counted, then voters' other choices are used (if their vote has yet to have been counted toward a winner's total) until all seats are filled.

Other options: There are several creative combination of these systems that could be used in Thurston County. One such combination would work well for a recent proposal by freeholders Gene Dziedzic and Mike Layton. They proposed a city-council merger with 15 part-time county council members, a county executive to be elected countywide and 15 volunteer community councils. Making use of some of the electoral systems described above, one could: use alternative votes to elect the county executive; use STV to elect the local community councils (which would make the vote count easier, as — when the system is not computerized — it is most complicated in large constituencies); and use party lists to elect the county council based on votes in the community council races. This last innovation could result in better communication between the county council and the respective community councils, particularly if members of the county council were drawn from the community councils.

Dancing on Olympia's Tax Wall

by Pat Holme

"The military-industrial complex is like our Berlin Wall— when we can dance on top of it we will finally be free."

–Melinda Howard

Eighty to 100 people had a good time on a sunny Easter Sunday afternoon at Capitol Lake, April 15th, the day our federal income taxes were due. We constructed a wall, danced a Samba march around it and knocked it down. We built the symbolic wall out of cardboard boxes decorated with information about how 52% of our tax dollars are spent: on military spending. People drew pictures of fighter planes, starwars, the MX missile system, B-1 bombers and decorated the 'bad' side of the wall as we educated ourselves to the details of the military-industrial complex and how much we really do pay for it.

Maureen Sheimo researched that Thurston County's fifty-two percent share of the 1989 $300 billion federal military budget was about $166,730,400. A bit much, don't you think! Thurston County spent $132,923,917 for operating budgets for all of our K-12 schools in 1989. We spent more on war than on education.

We drew pictures and made signs for the other 'good' side of the wall showing how we would rather have our money spent. Isak (4) and Aaron (8) Andrews enjoyed drawing pictures on boxes as their father Brad explained what this was all about. He told them, "Our government spends most of our money to make guns to hurt people and the people here today want the government to change that and spend money for good things to help people."

Jim Anest (guitar), Al Chickering (trombone), and Greg () played music while we were building the wall:

"Step by step, the longest march
Can be won, can be won
Many stones can form an arch,
Singly none, singly none
And in union what we will,
Can be accomplished still
Drops of water turn a mill,
Singly none, singly none."

Everybody pitched in to build the wall, even when it kept falling down because of a slight breeze from Budd Inlet. We soon built the wall in another direction which proved more stable. We also added a little tape to hold Patrick's handsome mural of boxes together and with a little human handholding the wall stayed up for all seven speakers.

Thanks go to Linda Medcalf who welcomed the people and introduced the speakers: Maureen Sheimo who told us about the May 2 Town Meeting at the Evergreen State College; Helena Meyer-Knapp, a professor at Evergreen talked to us about how to convert our defense industries to peacetime industries; Sam Bradley, our new Port Commissioner, told us how he would like our port to be a new Port Commissioner, told us how he would like our port to be a nuclear free port; George Barner, County Commissioner, said it was clear after reading the 'good side' of our wall that we already knew what our needs were, we just have to make our needs known politically and he is with us. Jeff Johnson from the State Labor Council said more union leaders were interested in speaking out about conversion issues; Brenda Sanders, Rainbow Co-chair, spoke about getting many of these ideas into the Democratic platform and Mike Olson from the Westside drummers said he preferred to let his music speak for him as he and his fellow drummers led us immediately into a spirited samba around and over and through the wall.

By that time, I was ecstatic that everything had happened as planned, including the sunshine, and happily jumped into the wall myself, at last dancing on the wall! Isak and Aaron agreed that knocking down the wall and smashing the boxes was the best part.

For me, this kind of event allowed us to practice working together, using our individual creativity and our collective wills to make something happen. It is through participation and involvement with our whole beings that we learn to trust each other and ourselves to realize our visions of a better world.

This event was part intellectual, part physical and the music of the drummers provided the beat that united our bodies with our heads in a dance to follow our hearts. It was a happy event that helped us meet each other and know that there are many others who want what we want.

As each one of us carried a box to the wall, it got bigger and bigger, children participated too, it was neat, we all got educated. I loved it. Sane/Freeze, Thurston County Rainbow Coalition, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, the League of Women Voters, the Westside Drummers, Unitarians, Democrats and other groups helped build the wall this year. This was the first annual dancing on the wall event. Let's build another wall next year, bigger and better, until there is no more need.

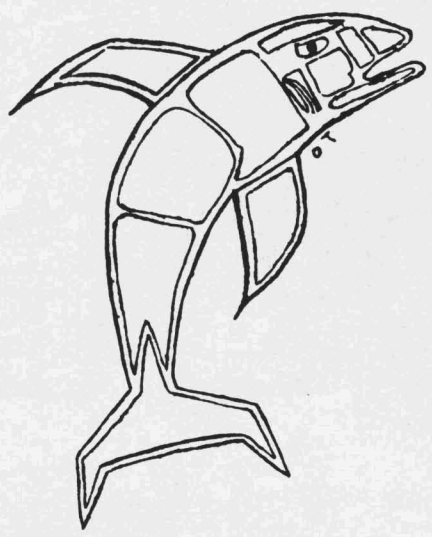
Vision-Seekers

by Virginia Thomas

The symbol of the Rainbow is impressed upon my mind as colors distinct enough to differentiate, yet blending in unison as one. We all have feelings, concerns, and beliefs that guide us everyday in our lives. I believe, as a Native American, there are some words that can transcend all cultural diversities. Like the rainbow colors, words can unite in one sentence to make a unified effort in communication. This unity is communicated for all to see, hear, and be affected by. Words affect our lives every day. The following words which are important to me are given to you as a gesture for unity in our efforts. These words are:

Patience. To me the first word we teach to our youth is the word patience. That is one word we must all get to know the meaning of. Some things will not happen in our lifetime. We accept that, reluctantly. We have to pass onto our youth our gifts of knowledge in the *hope* that they will use these gifts. The next word is *knowledge*. Without knowledge we will not know where we've been, where we are going or when we get where we are going. Where would you be without hope. Hope gets us up everyday. *Fear* of the *unknown* can *motivate* or *stagnant* our efforts. There is inner *strength* needed to go ahead, even though the path is dark and foreign to us. What we *learned* along the way will give us *wisdom* and help us decide the best *choices* for ourselves. We must *train* ourselves for the next endeavor. We need to *evaluate* what worked and what did not work. What we cannot see, feel or *understand* along the way, we will ask the higher power for *clarity* on our *direction*. Each *task*, goal or lesson has a price of investment. The goal must not be too easy to get to. When the test is hard, the results well earned, gives a *satisfying contentment* inside us. We *trust* ourselves to do the best we can with what we have on hand. We must remind ourselves that we are human. Only human. We will need to work at *balancing* our lives at all times. We cannot destroy ourselves or the environment we depend on to live. To make our own limits on ourselves is an acceptable action. To concede the battle, but not the war. Whether we like it or not, it is a war of words. Each side deciding the definition and scope of each word.

When there is more than one to do the task at hand, we get relief in



our efforts. No matter what our differing opinions are, we put those aside to accomplish the goal in mind. Each has their own designated duty to perform.

Within these structures of words, we give *identity*, *support*, *trust*, *love* and a *transitional change* that we are willing to *accept*, *assist*, and *adapt* to.

We all have dreams that we know are fantasies. A person that immediately comes to my mind on this was a dreamer. We could see the dream in our mind's eye and couldn't help but belief that there is just one person wanting a change for the better. He is no longer with us. He and others took a dream and worked at making it a reality. This is a gift of knowledge that is passed onto us that are here today. Now, just think what we can do with all the minds, energies, and cultural diversities that attend this meeting today. Look at what capabilities we have on hand that we could utilize to the fullest. We could make a dream a reality. To start, what does it take, you ask?

It only takes one. One to one. Then one to another before we are educated enough for ourselves to act on our concerns. We need to see and feel that change is possible. When that happens, the next word we need is *courage*. The courage to change. It could be in our grasp, but we must choose to hold these things dear to our hearts. To allow these ideas into our world. Choose to change. First, ourselves, and then others. Choose to be motivated and to motivate. Choose to be involved enough to *initiate*, running actions regularly and not just once like its a fad to try. We can move mountains of traditional thought to give room for the practical, honest, equitable life do all of us on this earth. Can we dare ourselves enough to change? Yes, I think so.

To act — to use all the tools available to us—our mind, our emotions, our body and our soul, is hard to do. To not act gives and unchallenged action the benefit of looking like it is acceptable when it is not.

We need to:

Confront — Define issues.

Question — Take in knowledge.

Initiate — To act, effectively, efficiently, and wisely.

Rest.

Reflect — Change is a necessity which needs to be always incorporated in our plan of action.

Read, listen, review, and schedule for positive change.

Caucus, Debate, Compromise, Delegate, Unite, and Act. Always rest.

The pain of freedom, the passion for life, the motivation from caring should all add up to the desire to vote. Always remember to vote. Then, and only then can you be sure your voice was heard.

To be Vision-Seekers, we must get to know the past, feel the present, and guide for the future. That is what we are, Vision Seekers.

Now, let's see what you and I can do, at least in this lifetime. I'm patient, how about you?

Virginia Thomas is Co-Chair of the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. This address was given at the TCRC Annual Meeting, March 3, 1990.

Thurston County Rainbow Coalition Meetings

Steering Committee Meeting
Friday, May 25, 1990
1400 East Eighth
7:00 pm
Open Meeting

General Membership Meeting
Saturday - June 16, 1990
3:00 - 5:00 pm
First Christian Church
701 South Franklin
Olympia, Washington
Public Welcome

For more information call: **Dan McGrady** **786-8779**
Todd Snider **352-1877**

Meta Raises Hell

by Meta Heller

I presented a resolution for Land-Value Taxation at the Rainbow Coalition meeting on March 3rd, after talking about the distribution of wealth and how taxes affect various income/wealth groups. The Rainbow Coalition wisely decided not to endorse anyone's initiative, but to give them to members and ask them to pass whatever resolutions struck their fancy at the upcoming Political Party Caucuses on Tuesday, March 13.

I passed a resolution for Land-Value Taxation at my Democratic Party caucus, so did two other Democratic Caucuses in Thurston County, that I know. These resolutions were not reflected in the platform on Taxes at the Democratic County Convention, April 21. I raised "hell" as did none other passer of a LVT resolution in his caucus, Jim Knudson. By various convention maneuvers, we tried to get LVT into the platform anyway. This did not happen—even though Jim Knudson got 25 signatures on a resolution at the "last hour" out of 38 remaining delegates.

Walt Bowen, Chairman of Thurston County Democrats, has said he would investigate, at the state level, as to why resolutions are not passed on to county chairpersons, and thus on to the Platform Committees. As of this date, he has investigated but has not called me.

I say, "These resolutions just disappear, or are thrown out at the state office, and never get to the county chairmen." Walt agrees he never saw my resolution from the info the state office sent back. Of course, neither did the Platform Chairman, Rob Green. As a result of my experience with LVT, I have gone to the Olympian and to the Associated Press, both of whom seem interested in pursuing this subject further.

Land-Value taxation solves the growth/homeless issue. In LVT, the state puts a much higher rate on assessed land values, and a much lower rate on buildings. Now, the rate is the same for land and for buildings. That is bad! Only land-speculators gain. Land prices are pressed continually upwards, so are rents.

The press understands this issue—even if members of the legislature do not, or have not admitted that they do.

Meta Heller, TCRC member, is a freelance writer & a member of the Washington St. Georgist Association.

TCRC Meeting Notes - April 7th

by Brenda Sanders

The first Thurston County Rainbow Coalition general membership meeting with new Co-Chairs, Brenda Sanders and Ginger Thomas, was held on April 7, 1990. The meeting took place at the First Christian Church in Olympia from 3:00-5:00 pm. Agenda items were:

1. Committee Reports
2. Freeholder Update
3. Candidates for unfilled (TCRC) positions
4. National Town Meeting
5. (Candidate) Endorsement Proposal
6. Chehalis Tribes Food Bank
7. Other
   a. County government
   b. Reproductive Rights Coalition
   c. Sane/Freeze Tax Day
   d. Addition of a new Member-at-Large position

Highlights of the meeting included:

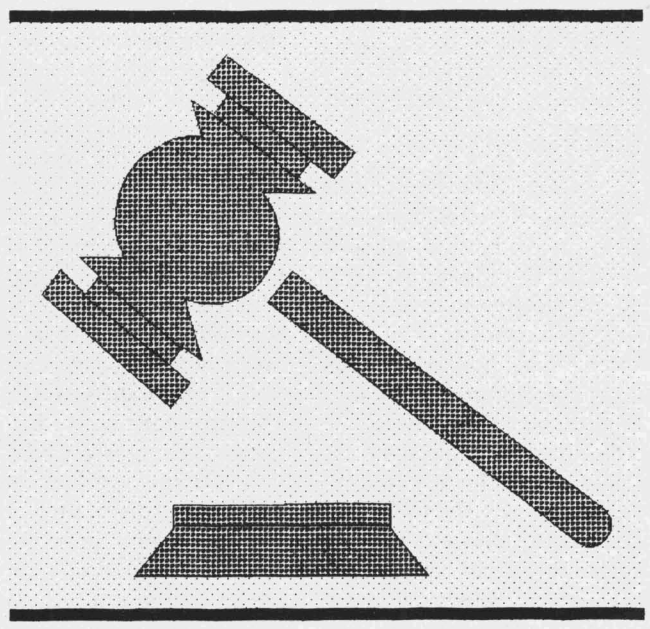
Thurston County Freeholders, Bill Daley, Fred Helberg, and Gene Dziedzic, spoke about the possibilities and potentialities in the new County Charter. Those interested in influencing the process were encouraged to attend the freeholder meetings. In a related development, Teresa Jennings and Rob Richie introduced the concept of proportional representation (PR) to the coalition. They presented materials and followed with discussion on the advantages and procedures of the process. This information was given to the freeholders for their consideration. The membership passed a resolution endorsing the concept. *(See related article, page 1)*

Tomas Ybarra of the Olympia Alliance for Equality and Excellence in Education was elected Member-at-Large. Tomas had been nominated at the TCRC annual meeting held in March.

Ginger Thomas requested volunteers to help distribute produce from the Western Washington Food Coalition and Northwest Harvest through a multi-tribal food bank. Those interested in volunteering can phone 456-0451 and leave a message for Ginger.

Organizational business conducted included agreement by the membership to sponsor a newspaper to begin publication by May 1, 1990 and a request for questions and volunteers for the candidate endorsement process for the upcoming electoral season. Those interested in working with the endorsement process can contact Dan McGrady at 786-8779.

TCRC still needs chairpersons for the Fundraising, Finance, and Issues/Policy Committees and a Political Party Liaison. Additional members for these and all other committees are always welcome. For more information call Teresa Jennings at 456-0451 or Brenda Sanders at 866-9553.



"There must be a middle ground on this log jam"

by John Warring

Few in Grays Harbor, indeed, few in rural Western Washington, would argue with the notion that we are dependent on timber.

In Grays Harbor 4,670 of the 6,060 manufacturing jobs are in the forest products industry with more than 60 percent of the jobs timber related. The other day, guest columnist Bill Pickell stated that export timber brings a 40 percent premium to its owner. It is not difficult to understand, therefore, why during Bob Williams' tenure with Weyerhaeuser the company decided to cut back mill operations in Longview in favor of exporting logs. Nor to understand why ITT Rayonier decided to spin off a limited partnership and force its pulp mill to bid against the export market for logs it owned - logs that are now cut by Bill Pickell's contract loggers. This is the same company whose contract employees work under a two-tier wage scale.

It was not so long ago that even the longshoremen seemed to be targeted for extinction by ITT, first trying to get other unions to undercut their wages then threatening to install a non-union stevedoring company.

According to Webster, a profiteer is one who unduly profits from the sale of necessities. If the shoe fits, wear it.

The Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, supports legislation banning log exports. So do workers in Randle, Raymond and Shelton who witness their communities decline while shipping out jobs on our docks.

The small mill owners like Mayr Bros., who cut lumber for export to Japan (and who cannot get timber) need a hammer to get the Japanese to open up their market. Our trees are the only trump card we have, and we just might have to take a gamble if we are to retain jobs. The American public will not impose tariffs and give up their TVs, CDs, VCRs and computers just so we can export lumber to Japan.

I do not personally support a total ban on log exports, for I do not believe we currently have the mill capacity to process them. I do, however, support Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld over Challenger Bob Williams.

What is so wrong about a bill that allows the states to decide if they will allow log exports? There is strong consensus within Oregon, as evidenced by an overwhelming vote of the people, for a ban on log exports. We in Washington could have a bill that avoids a total ban but restricts or taxes exports so the Mayr Bros. and Dahlstroms in our state can survive.

The environmentalists have succeeded in nationalizing this issue and the Northwest has lost its control over it. Unsoeld's bill would return at least part of that influence back to us locally.

For the last 20 years, whenever the environmentalists have proposed wilderness, even alpine wilderness with little marketable timber, those opposed have predicted doom and gloom for the timber industry. The same loss-of-jobs argument has been used whenever someone suggests leaving a buffer zone on streams or reducing erosion to protect fisheries. Now that there is a real crisis, the workers find themselves without credibility because Bill Pickell and his colleagues have cried wolf so many times that nobody believes us.

I find a bitter irony in the battle between the modern timber barons and the environmentalists over who is the savior of timber jobs. Too many of the environmentalists are more concerned about putting loggers out of business instead of alleviating detrimental environmental effects.

Likewise, the timber industry is often insensitive of the need to avoid environmental and aesthetic degradation.

We all prosper when logging is done conscientiously to minimize detrimental impacts on fish, wildlife, and people. Our community cannot currently survive without sustainable plantation harvests. Let us not fool ourselves, however. Old-growth virgin forests are not sustainable. No business or corporation will rotate trees on a 100- or 200-year cycle. The industry wants to do whatever gives the greatest profit, while the Seattle environmental mafia wants to preserve it all. Somewhere there must be a middle ground.

Congresswoman Unsoeld is working hard to balance the need for jobs in competing industries of fisheries, log export and lumber. She has lobbied hard for the Port's deeper draft project, which David Ortman of Friends of the Earth called "a gift to Weyerhaeuser."

Much to the chagrin of the environmental lobby, she was also instrumental in getting the permit for the Cowlitz Falls hydroelectric project extended. In doing so, she got fisheries mitigation that should have been done when Mayfield and Mossyrock Dams were constructed on the Cowlitz River, one of the Columbia basin's foremost fisheries. She has introduced legislation for a comprehensive study of the Chehalis Basin to improve its fish and wildlife. She has fought hard to stop the stealing of our salmon by ocean drift-net fishermen and to delay the potential disaster that offshore oil drilling could mean for our commercial fisheries.

One way or another, most of our community is tied to our resources. Those who do not directly derive a living from farming, fisheries or timber take for granted our outdoor recreation activities.

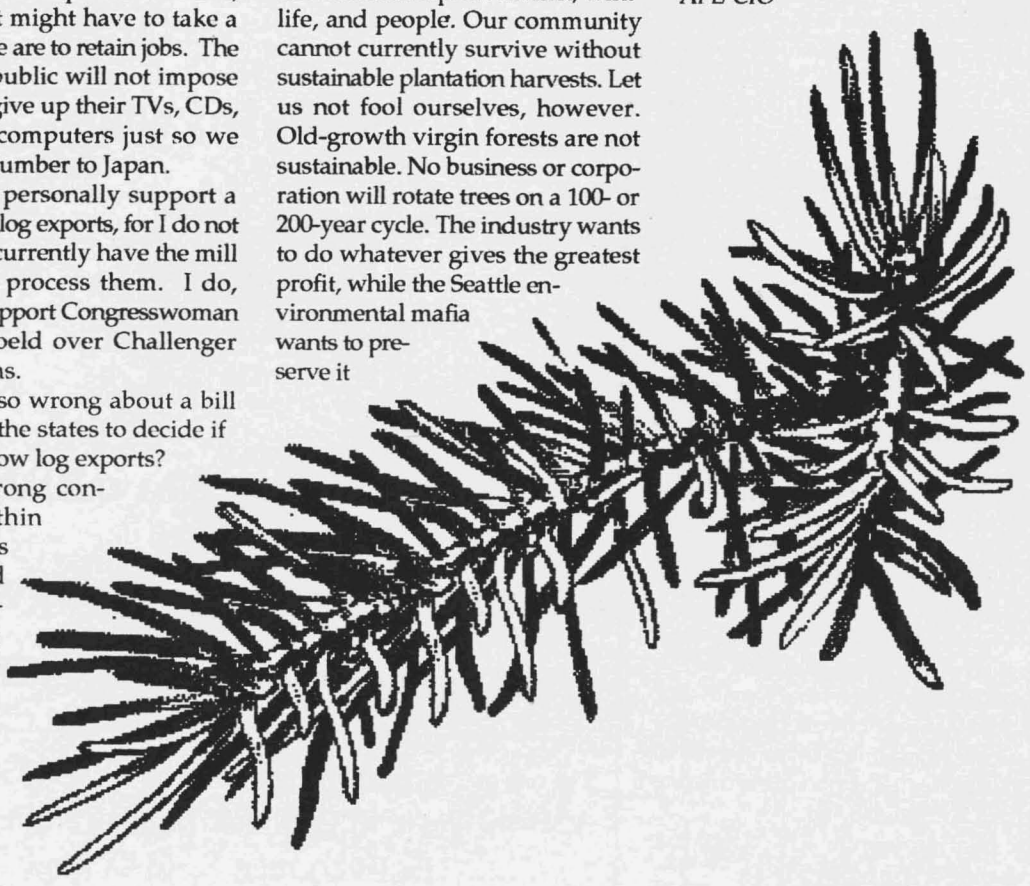
We do not want someone like Bob Williams, who is more interested in Weyerhaeuser's profits than our welfare.

We need a hard worker who can build bridges. We want jobs, fishing, hunting, and family outdoor recreation. They are not easy issues and they do not lend themselves to simplistic situations. We do not need another Weyerhaeuser clone. We need Jolene.

John Warring is President of the Grays Harbor Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO

"According to Webster, a profiteer is one who unduly profits from the sale of necessities..."

"The same loss of jobs arguement has been used whenever someone suggests leaving a buffer zone on streams or reducing erosion to protect fisheries."



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May 1990 Calendar

Thursday, May 3	**OLYMPIANS AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY** meeting 7:30 p.m. at Bread and Roses, 1320 E 8th, Olympia. Info: Glen Anderson
Friday, May 4	**CONGRESSWOMAN JOLENE UNSOELD'S CAMPAIGN OFFICE OPENS** at 406 S Capitol Way, Olympia. Grand opening 5:00-6:30 p.m. Information: 357-7007
Sunday, May 6	**CROP WALK FOR THE HUNGRY:** Ask people in advance to pledge money per mile. Arrive 1:15 p.m. at Ingersoll Stadium at Olympia High School. Info: 943-3658 or 943-4072
Monday, May 7	**THURSTON COUNTY DISPUTE RESOLUTION CENTER MEMBERSHIP MEETING,** 7:00 p.m. Olympia Public Library, 8th & Franklin Info: Evan Ferber 754-0987
Tuesday, May 8	**"CLAIMING THE PEACE DIVIDEND"** — 9:00 p.m. on Thurston Community TV (Channel 31), sponsored by Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation. Local folks discuss cutting the military budget and spending the money in socially useful ways. Live broadcast will let viewers call in with the own ideas. Info: 491-9093.
Thursday, May 10	**TOWN HALL MEETING with STATE REPRESENTATIVES JENNIFER BELCHER and KAREN FRASER and STATE SENATOR MIKE KREIDLER,** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Tenino City Hall, 149 S. Hodgen
Friday, May 11	**"THE CHURCH'S ROLE IN FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY & INDEPENDENCE — WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE REVOLU TION?"** 8:00 p.m. lecture by Dr. Hubert Locke, St. Joseph's Catholic Church Sanctuary, 732 18th Ave E., Capitol Hill, Seattle Info: 526-5059
Saturday, May 12	**FORUM OFFERING EASTERN EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES ON THE PREVIOUS EVENING'S LECTURE.**, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the church's Social Hall
Sunday, May 13	**"CLAIMING THE PEACE DIVIDEND"** — 11:00 a.m. on Thurston Community TV (Channel 31). (Rebroadcast)
Sunday, May 13	**MOTHER'S DAY CELEBRATION** - Mothers and others concerned for the future of our children and the earth - 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Marathon Park, southwest side of Capitol Lake, sponsored by the Greens of Olympia and many other community groups. Lots of speakers, music, and fun. Bring picnic lunch. Info: 943-5971 or 877-2278
Monday, May 14	**TOWN HALL MEETING with STATE REPRESENTATIVES JENNIFER BELCHER and KAREN FRASER and STATE SENATOR MIKE KREIDLER,** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Lacey City Hall, 429 College SE.
Tuesday, May 15	**"CLAIMING THE PEACE DIVIDEND"** — 9:00 p.m. on Thurston Coummunity TV (Channel 31). (Rebroadcast)
Thursday, May 17	**WASHINGTON ENVIRONMENT 2010 TOWN MEETING** to involve real people in planning our state's environmental future. 7:00 p.m. at General Administration Building Auditorium, 210 11th Street (on the Capitol Campus). Info: 438-7701
Friday, May 25th	**THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING** - 7 p.m. - 1400 8th, Olympia. For more information: 352-1877
Friday, May 25th	**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE WORKS IN PROGRESS NEWSPAPER!** - For more information call Goodman at 866-7096 anytime.

Why Stop the Death Penalty?

- A Panel Discussion - Sunday, May 20th 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 19th & South Capital Way, Olympia

Judy Blinder, Ryan Helm, and Glen Anderson will discuss why it is important to stop the death penalty. Judy Blinder is the former State Amnesty International Coordinator and Steering Committee member of the Washington Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. She will discuss Amnesty International's reasons for opposing the death penalty and will report on the recent Western Regional Conference on the Death Penalty.

Ryan Helm is a student whose interest in the arts caused him to become involved in working to abolish the death penalty. He will discuss why the arts awakened him to the injustice of the death penalty and discuss the role of the arts in challenging our consciences.

Glen Anderson is coordinator of Olympia Fellowship Reconciliation. He is involved in local efforts to abolish the death penalty. He will discuss the philosophical, theological, and humanitarian reasons for elimination state-sanctioned murder.

Panel members will field questions from the floor. The meeting is free and open to the public.

The discussion is being cosponsored by Olympians Against the Death Penalty, Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation, St. Michael's Social Justice Committee, and Amnesty International, Olympia.

For additional information call 491-9093.

Tibet: A Seed for Transformation

The Chinese/Tibetan Human Rights Situation

Thursday, May 17th
Olympia Community Center
222 North Columbia, Rm 203
7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

by Janine Rogers

The Olympia chapter of Amnesty International (AI) invites the public to participate in a slideshow/discussion presentation on Tibet, on Thursday, May 17 at the Olympia Center, 222 North Columbia, Room 203, from 7:30-9:00 pm.

The slideshow will be followed by a discussion by Olympian Chrystal Tack and TESC faculty member Wendy Schofield, both recently returned from Asia. They will describe the current Tibetan struggle for autonomy and freedom from China.

There will also be an opportunity to letterwrite on behalf of Asian prisoners of conscience and other cases. Prisoner of conscience is the AI term used to describe men, women, and children imprisoned for their belief, color, sex, ethnic origin, language, or religion, provided they have neither used nor advocated violence.

The presentation will conclude with a chant for peace led by Tibetan lama, Jama Yingyang.

AI, Olympia, founded in 1986, works on a variety of human rights issues, focusing on Latin America and South East Asia.

For more information, contact Janine Rogers, 943-3895.

THE RAINBOW CHALLENGE

The Jackson Campaign and the Future of U.S. Politics

by
Sheila D. Collins

"Winds are blowing . . . that have not stirred American politics in just this way in a half-century."

Theodore White

Saturday, May 19th

10 pm - 12 noon, Library 4304

Seminar Facilitator: Dr Lucia Harrison

This free seminar is sponsored by the Graduate Program in Public Administration at The Evergreen State College